

A LIVELY COUNCIL

Mayor Wise Delivers a Sharp Message.

ON THE DANCE HALL EVILS

Chief Gammel Ordered to Close the Places—Will Confer With Police Commission First—Big Lot of Routine Affairs.

The feature of last night's session of the Astoria Common Council was the following message from Mayor Herman Wise, which speaks for itself in the most uncompromising terms, on the vital question of dance-halls and dance-hall evils in this city:

"ASTORIA, Ore., March 18, 1907.

"Gentlemen of the Common Council of the City of Astoria.

"For more than a year the regulation and restriction of the social evils of our city has been like a nightmare to me. Before the stern responsibilities of my office confronted my conscience I was one of that innumerable army of side-walk statesmen, who solve the secrets of diplomacy, the questions of strategy, as well as the intricacies of finance with the same ease as side-walk firemen criticize the nozzle boys in front of tumbling walls.

"The dance hall supporters were so persistent and the settlement of the question so difficult that I hesitated long, but happenings of the last few months have removed the veil. My eyes behold the dance-hall spectre in all its nakedness. It is awful! And fully realizing my responsibility I am determined to wash my hands and soul clean. Some mother's girl still in her teens, is found dying in one of these pitfalls. A coroner's jury fixes the responsibility and justly puts part of the blame upon the officers sworn to uphold the law. The police commissioners send a communication to this honorable body asking for instruction for the first time in their official career. Under date of Jan. 22 they say:

"It is an open question whether or not a wide-open town should be continued against the ordinances of the city and the laws of the state of Oregon." The Council responds by calling the commissioners attention to the

city charter. In the meantime the grand jury meets, and even while they deliberate, the employees of a dance hall are arrested for holding-up an unsophisticated countryman. And still, the dance halls are allowed to operate. The coroner's jury, the grand jury, the ministers of the gospel, and many of the best men and women in the city are asking, is there not power to muzzle this monster, who but yesterday destroyed a girl stranger in our midst? Shall it be an Astoria girl next? There are girls and boys who are nestling in their mother's laps today who may soon fall prey to this, the greatest of all plagues—all my merciless lust, that grows fat upon the souls of the weak and unsuspecting. The vice that gnaws at the foundation of society and boldly defies the servants of the people.

"It is against my wish that I write this message, but I have told these men personally, and also to their agents whom they sent to me, that I wanted the dance halls to close. Notwithstanding my friendly request they continue to operate. And why? Because in Astoria the responsibility is divided and the several divisions will not co-operate in routing the enemy of our children. It is a fact that men cannot be made good by law. I recognize the fact that man is but a handful of clay streaked with passion. I know that many delinquencies must be tolerated. I also know that the best brains of the world have for ages tried to evolve a plan which would keep man in the straight and narrow path. The best that society has been able to accomplish in nineteen centuries was to put a thin veneer to hide the black spots upon our body politic, but while certain vices must perforce be tolerated and kept within reasonable bounds the dance-hall evil has forfeited all claim to consideration by its open defiance to decency and law. The morphine pill and the hold-up have nauseated the finer sensibilities of the community and I for one will no longer be a party to this miserable compact.

"About a year ago you gentlemen passed ordinance numbered 3202 to prevent and punish keepers of dance-halls, also ordinance 3206 to prevent and punish nuisances. You and I, as well as all other officials have solemnly vowed to see that these ordinances are enforced.

"The keepers of dance halls stopped dancing while the grand jury was in session, but I am informed that as soon as the grand jury adjourned these places re-opened, therefore deeming the dance halls to be both unlawful and a menace to the peace and good order of the city, I as mayor

hereby declare that dance halls, where boys and girls are allowed to congregate and start upon their journey to purgatory, should close and stay closed in obedience to ordinances 3202 and 3206. That any police officer who fails to enforce the provisions of said ordinances, should be suspended from duty, and since the new charter provides that a majority of the council must sustain such suspension, I appeal to you gentlemen to back me up, or rather, back up the ordinances. If you will, the honorable Police Commission will no doubt co-operate because they so promised in their recent letter to the Council. Thus will decent, lawful government be vindicated and the sign "boys and girls ruled here and men held up for \$50 per month paid to the city" will be taken down and cast into oblivion, and the pamphlet "Facts about Astoria," may then be sent out without a blush.

"But while we are disciplining the keepers of the dance halls let us not overlook the fact that the chief blame attaches to those who pray for salvation on Sunday, preach morality on week days, receive fancy rents on collection day and vote against law enforcing officers on election day. They are the most dangerous citizens, because they wear a mask and the people do not know them. Then too, we have many professional and business men who openly condemn the evil, but secretly encourage the evil doers, and softly whisper in the officers ears "let well enough alone," "don't injure our business." They are the bulwark behind the brothels, the champion of the siren and the macabreux.

"Many well meaning people, while opposed to dance halls on principle, lamely defend them on commercial grounds. In answer to their contention, let me suggest that Portland has closed its dance halls, and the merchants of that city are busier than ever. Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Los Angeles and other cities, have no dance halls, and they are growing amazingly. So it shall come to pass in Astoria. Our city will grow greater as it grows better. Men of capital and men with families will come here when we close our dance halls and have made Astoria a fit place for decent people to live in. There is nothing in the threat that any man will lose business because girls are no longer permitted to waltz the 'dance of death.' If that were true, it would be a terrible indictment against the people of Astoria. But I believe the clean people, the just and God fearing people are largely in the majority.

The natural instincts of man teaches that when the last moment comes, as it surely must, we must not let the recollection of partnership with vice agonize our parting, but let the consciousness of having saved some mother's boy or girl from the dance hall and the morgue, bring the light of peace into our closing eyes and rest, to our hearts as they beat their last faint farewell.

Respectfully Submitted,
"HERMAN WISE,
Mayor."

The Mayor's message was received in silence, and when he had done, no comment was offered, but evidently it received due consideration, for hardly had the regular business of the session been finished when the matter was taken up once more.

Councilman Kaboth was the first to speak. He declared that in his opinion the matter was purely one that concerned the members of the police commission. Councilman Lelienweber spoke next, saying that he supposed the Mayor had brought the matter up at this time because of the fact that it was now possible to prevent the dance hall places from securing a license, while as a matter of fact, the committee on health and police could not refuse a license unless the house had been convicted under the law of a misdemeanor. He did not believe the matter concerned the council until the mayor had suspended the Chief of Police for not obeying his orders. Councilman Logan spoke to the same effect. Councilman Belland then arose and in terms that left no doubt as to his meaning, said that the duty was one that concerned the city officials alone and that dereliction on their part was not the fault of the council. His terms were so vigorous as to cause the mayor to call him to order.

When the discussion had been finished the Mayor rose and called to Chief of Police Gammel, who was in the rear of the room.

"Mr. Gammel," he said, "I hereby instruct you to close the dance halls in the city of Astoria." The Chief of Police requested that the command be put in writing and this was done. A good deal of routine business was transacted in the council meeting. Among the new matters before the body was the granting of the City Physician six days leave of absence at his request to visit cities in Washington and inspect the sanitary arrangements.

The petition of the North Pacific Brewing Co., to erect a small fuel oil tank was ordered placed on file at the recommendation of the Committee on Fire and Water.

The report of the expert examining the books of the Chief of Police and Police Judge and Auditor declaring them to be correct and recommending several changes as to methods was ordered placed on file.

The certificate of the completion of the improvement of Columbia Ave was accepted.

An ordinance fixing the manner and time of improving 42nd street from Bond street to the alley through lots five and six was read the third time and passed.

An ordinance was read the third time and passed accepting the improvement of Bond street from 42nd to 44th street.

An ordinance fixing the salary of the Superintendent of Streets at \$95 a month and that of the engineer of the steam roller at \$80 a month was read for the first and second times. An ordinance fixing the salary of the employees of the numbers of the street department at \$2.75 a day was read the first and second times.

An ordinance appropriating \$745 for the benefit of August Hilstrom was read the first and second times.

An ordinance was read the third time and passed appropriating the sum of \$1050 for the benefit of Dill and Young for the improvement of Bond street between 42nd and 44th streets.

An ordinance appropriating the sum of \$225 for the benefit of E. Long was passed.

The oil tank ordinance came up and created considerable discussion. Councilman Kaboth noted that the prescribed conditions only applied to the tanks of the Standard Oil Co., and protested. After considerable discussion the ordinance was passed.

Resolutions to improve Exchange street between 4th and 2nd; Irving between 14th and 18th streets, with the exception of the block between 15th and 18th, to be improved by the property owners; and to construct a sewer between points on 17 and 18th streets were read and adopted.

Coast Agency Co., \$400 E. A. Higgins, \$5.75, Astoria Herald, \$68.50 J. J. Robing, \$5.00 O. R. & N. Co., \$5.00, B. F. Allen & Son, \$5.00 Troy Laundry, 75c, City Lumber & Box Co., \$2.90 B. F. Marion, \$17.50, J. A. Montgomery, \$19.22, E. Hauke & Co., \$1.00 Fisher Bros. Co., \$6.50 C. W. Holmes, \$12.00, A. G. Long, \$35.00, T. F. Laurin, \$1.75, R. M. Gaston, .50 Foard & Stokes Hardware Co., .10 Sherman Transfer \$0.50 C. F. Wise, John Stephenson Wirkala & Linbeck, Chas. H. Abercrombie \$10.00, City Treasurer's Office \$4.00, Foard & Stokes Hardware Co., \$0.45, Foard & Stokes Hardware Co., \$3.16, Andrew Asp, \$0.75, Geo. W. Sanborn, \$9.55 Clatsop Mill Co., \$0.80, S. Elmore & Co., \$10.00 Allen Wall Paper & Paint Co., \$3.05, Lindstrom & Jorgensen, \$100.00 Lindstrom & Jorgensen \$19.00 Foard & Stokes Hardware Co., \$0.50.

WAIVED EXAMINATION.

Arthur Leberman Appears Before Justice Goodman.

Arthur Leberman, the defaulting book-keeper for Fisher Brothers Company, yesterday appeared before Justice P. J. Goodman of this city, upon the charge of larceny by embezzlement preferred by Hon. Asmus Brix on Saturday night last. The defendant waived preliminary examination and he was held to the Hon. Circuit Court in bail fixed at \$8,000; and was re-committed in default thereof.

He was without an attorney and declined the services of one when the tender was made him by the justice. In conversation with a reporter of the Astorian, the unhappy man said he was more at ease than he had been for the past three years; that he was up against it hard and fast, but was ready and willing to take his medicine.

His case will be called in the Circuit court sometime after the 3rd of April, the date fixed for the re-convention of that tribunal.

Deputy District Attorney John C. McCue appeared yesterday in behalf of the State of Oregon.

PROMPT DELIVERY.

We have a delivery wagon at your service manned by an experienced obliging driver who will esteem it a favor to call on you and will bring your bread on time and when you say so. Royal Bakery, new shop 505 Duane street.

Two in One Winter.

C. E. Emerson, of Fitzwilliam, N. H., had two attacks of pneumonia in one winter. He writes that two physicians said he could not recover from the last attack. After they had given up hope he began taking Foley's Honey and Tar, which brought him out all right. He writes that he surely thinks Foley's Honey and Tar is the grandest remedy for throat and lung troubles. T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

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Clothes for Men are the

Acme of Men's Clothes

for Several Reasons.

FIRST.
Every garment bearing this label is guaranteed to be every thread wool.

SECOND.
They are hand tailored throughout and the workmanship is perfect.

THIRD.
They are designed by the highest paid artists in the business and possess that "swagger air" that is so eagerly sought for.

We could name a dozen more reasons why they lead them all.

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P. A. Stokes

Sole Agent "Uncommon Clothes."

FOR THAT SUNDAY DINNER

Shipment of fresh fruit and vegetables today.

Fancy Asparagus 2 lbs. 25c.

Fresh Rhubarb, 3 lbs. 25c.

Hot House Lettuce, Celery, Cabbage and Cauliflower.

Sweet Navel Oranges, 20 to 50c dozen.

Acme Grocery Co.

Phone Main 681

521 Commercial St.

Experience is the Best Teacher.

We have had over 18 years experience in the manufacture of bread and have made bread making a study. In the blending of flours and the use of other ingredients we are experts and are able to produce a perfect and nutritious loaf.

We are making over 15 different varieties of bread and feel certain we can suit any taste.

Our specialties are Table Queen and Butter Loaf try them. Royal Bakery 505 Duane St. 275 W. Bond St.

The safe, certain reliable little pills that do not gripe or sicken are Dade's Little Liver Pills. Best for sick headaches, biliousness and lazy livers.

No Case on Record.

There is no case on record of a cough or cold resulting in pneumonia or consumption after Foley's Honey and Tar has been taken, as it will stop your cough and break up your cold quickly. Refuse any but the genuine. Foley's Honey and Tar in a yellow package. Contains no opiates and is safe and sure. T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

ENTIRE PROVINCE DAMAGED

ROME, March 16.—The Avanti publishes dispatches from Potenza, saying the entire province was damaged by the recent landslides. Two hundred houses were damaged at Catro Nuevo and 250 at St. Iglano have been undermined and on the point of collapse.

W. C. LAWS & CO.

HEATING AND PLUMBING ENGINEERS

Plans and estimates furnished on application.

All work done by First-Class Mechanics.

Sheet-Iron, Copper and Tin Work done in a first-class manner, as we do no other work in our shop.

The Millinery Opening

AT

MRS. MINNIE PETERSEN'S

Has disclosed many new and becoming hats. The dainty Mushroom, in its many shapes, decked with flowers, wings and ribbons, will have a large run this season, as will the Parisian Chip Straw. Then comes the new creations in the Vienna and Regina Bonnets with their superb colorings, while their shapes seem mashed down and odd, after being placed on the head they become a thing of beauty, and impart to the wearer a new dignity and grace. As Mrs. Petersen is recognized as a MILLINER OF TASTE AND EXCLUSIVENESS, you should not fail to be a buyer there. This season the prices will be cheaper than ever and our goods will be the best ever brought to this city.

We are located in the Star Theatre Building on Commercial Street.

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Dr. Mott's Anti-Lean

MAKES LEAN PEOPLE FAT THROUGH THE NERVOUS SYSTEM IT IS A PURELY VEGETABLE COMPOUND. Contains no oils or fats or any drug that is injurious or liable to produce a habit. Each bottle contains a month's treatment and costs \$1.50 at any first class drug store. Prepared by the ANTI-LEAN MEDICINE COMPANY, OREGONIAN BUILDING, PORTLAND, OREGON.

